

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated September 23, 2005, claims 1-20 are pending and claims 1-20 are rejected. Reconsideration is requested for at least the reasons discussed hereinbelow.

The above amendment is submitted to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as invention. Support can be found throughout the specification and drawings. See, particularly, page 28, line 14 to page 29, line 15 for a description of a control section for controlling respective display sections, for example, wherein a controller controls both the display section of the scanner and the display section of the printer.

New claims 21-23 are presented in order to provide protection more commensurate with the scope of the disclosure. No new matter is added.

Objection is made to the title of the invention as not descriptive. The title has been amended to overcome this objection. If the examiner considers that this title is still not descriptive, Applicants would welcome any suggestions from the examiner for a more suitable title.

The present invention is directed to and claims an image forming system, including a printer for forming an image on a recording medium and a scanner for optically reading a document image, where the printer and the scanner are used in a systematic manner in which the printer and the scanner are used in combination as a system and where the printer or the scanner can be used separately in a non-systematic manner without disconnecting a connection cable. The printer and the scanner respectively comprises a display section, in such a manner that at least one of the display sections is so controlled as to have different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner. This provides the advantage of saving memory and unifying control.

Claims 1-4 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Watanabe (U.S. 5,956,169). Watanabe discloses an image forming system including a printer and a scanner having separate housings, but connected together with a single integrated cable including power supply wires and signal wires for use as a system having one power source for receiving AC current from an external power supply. Watanabe discloses an "operation display section 103 as part of the scanner unit and allowing it to display information of both the scanner unit 101 and the printer unit 102" (Col. 3, lines 26-30).

Watanabe **fails** to teach or suggest an image forming system where the printer and the scanner are used in a systematic manner in which the printer and the scanner are used in combination as a system and where the printer or the scanner can be used separately in a non-systematic manner without disconnecting a connection cable.

Further, Watanabe **fails** to teach or suggest that the printer **and** the scanner respectively comprise a display section, in such a manner that at least one of the display sections is so controlled as to have different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner. There is no suggestion for the Watanabe image forming system to be used in two modes: i.e., (1) a systematic manner in which the printer and the scanner are used in combination as a system **and** (2) a non-systematic manner where the printer or the scanner can be used separately without disconnecting a connection cable. In Watanabe, only the scanner display section can show the status of the entire image forming system. On the contrary, in the present invention, either the scanner display section or the printer display section can be used to show the status of the entire image forming system.

Also, because Watanabe **fails** to teach or suggest an image forming system that can be used for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner, manifestly, Watanabe does not teach or suggest having different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner.

Watanabe **fails** to teach or suggest a control section for controlling respective display sections. The printer controller (110c) of Watanabe does not in fact control a display of the scanner and of the printer. Rather, the printer controller (110c) is disclosed only for executing a smoothing process, a dither process or the like on image data to be printed by the printer (see col. 5, lines 44-48). It is not even disclosed that the printer controller (100c) controls a display section of the printer, much less the display section of the scanner. Although the printer controller (100c) may possibly provide display information to the operation display controller (103a), such a mere provision of information cannot reasonably be understood as "controlling" the operation display section (103) of the scanner.

It is noted that Watanabe further discloses an operation controller (103a). However, this operation display controller (103a) appears to control only the display of the scanner, not that of the printer. At best, this operation display controller (103a) is provided with information from the printer controller (100c) to display a condition of the printer on the operation display section (103) of the scanner, however, this operation display controller (103a) does not control the printer display section *per se*.

An object of preferred embodiments of the present invention resides in the fact that, when realizing a system by connecting a scanner unit (having its own operation panel) with a printer unit (which also has its own operation panel), the printer unit controls how the plurality of operation panels are used. For example, when it is detected by a controller on the printer side that the printer is connected with a scanner, various information of the entire system (printer + scanner) can be operated by entering instructions via an operation panel provided also on the scanner side. Applicants respectfully submit that Watanabe fails to teach or suggest such an arrangement.

Applicants further submit that Watanabe concerns a system where a scanner and a printer are connected by a single cable. Watanabe does not disclose how the displays on the scanner and the printer are controlled. Watanabe merely discloses that information of both the scanner and the printer are displayed on the display section of the scanner. Importantly, Watanabe does not

teach or suggest how the operation panel of the printer is controlled when the operation panel of the scanner is to be used.

Thus, Watanabe completely fails to teach or suggest any kind of control section provided in a single unit for controlling the display of two or more separate units. It is not seen how the present invention is anticipated by Watanabe. Further, it is not seen how the present invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of Watanabe.

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Watanabe in view of Ito et al. ("Ito"; U.S. 4,682,158). Watanabe is discussed in detail above. Ito **fails** to make up for the deficiencies of Watanabe. Ito also **fails** to teach or suggest an image forming system where the printer and the scanner are used in a systematic manner in which the printer and the scanner are used in combination as a system and where the printer or the scanner can be used separately in a non-systematic manner without disconnecting a connection cable. Ito also **fails** to teach or suggest that the printer **and** the scanner respectively comprises a display section, in such a manner that at least one of the display sections is so controlled as to have different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner. Because Ito **fails** to teach or suggest an image forming system that can be used for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner, manifestly, Ito does not teach or suggest having different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner.

It is not seen how the present invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of any combination of Watanabe and Ito.

Claims 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Watanabe in view of Lee (U.S. 6,191,758 B1). Watanabe is discussed in detail above. Lee **fails** to make up for the deficiencies of Watanabe. Lee also **fails** to teach or suggest an image forming system where the printer and the scanner are used in a systematic manner in which the printer and the scanner are used in combination as a system and where the printer or the scanner can be used separately in a non-systematic manner without disconnecting a connection cable. Lee also **fails** to teach or suggest

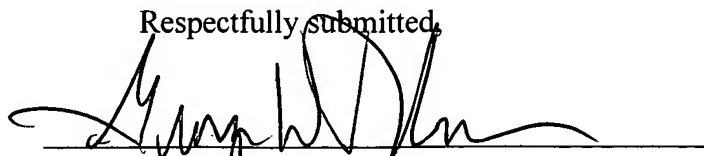
that the printer **and** the scanner respectively comprises a display section, in such a manner that at least one of the display sections is so controlled as to have different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner. Because Lee **fails** to teach or suggest an image forming system that can be used for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner, manifestly, Ito does not teach or suggest having different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner.

Further, Lee discloses a computer having a main display device and an auxiliary display device. It is not seen how Lee would have been combined with Watanabe to arrive at the present invention. The present invention comprises a scanner display section and a printer display section for an image forming system. Watanabe already discloses a scanner display with the scanner unit and a printer display with the printer unit. If one of ordinary skill in the art were to add an auxiliary display to the Watanabe image forming system, what would such person do? Thus, it is not seen how one of ordinary skill in the art would combine the teachings of Lee and Watanabe to arrive at the present invention.

Thus, it is not seen how the present invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of any combination of Watanabe and Lee.

In view of the discussion above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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